

■ How Do I Continue my Benefits?

Three months after you have received your first benefit, you will receive a report form in the mail. The form is simple to complete and asks for any changes in your household size and income for that three-month period.

Once you have completed your report form, mail it to: Department of Social Services, Sales Tax on Food Refund Program, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2291. Or you can fax your completed form to (605) 773-7183. If you do not send in the form, eligibility for the program will stop, and you will need to reapply to receive further benefits.

■ What if I am Receiving Food Stamp Benefits?

If you have received food stamp benefits for three months in a row, you will automatically be approved for sales tax on food refund benefits, unless you have already received a refund. If you only received food stamp benefits for one or two months in a row, you can apply for this program, or you can wait until you receive food stamp benefits three months and receive automatic eligibility.



■ How Can I Contact your Office?

For more information about the Sales Tax on Food Refund Program or assistance filling out your application, you can contact our office by calling:

(605) 773-4105
or toll-free 1-866-674-0543

You can also find information online at:

[www.state.sd.us/social/
SalesTaxOnFoodRefund](http://www.state.sd.us/social/SalesTaxOnFoodRefund)

DSS Nondiscrimination Policy:

It is the policy of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make sure that applications for program benefits and services are made available to everyone and that program benefits are granted to all who meet eligibility standards. DSS staff, programs and policies must not discriminate against clients or applicants for services because of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion and national origin. DSS must also provide fair and equal access to all of its programs and services for people with disabilities; this includes both physical access to buildings and access to programs and services. To file a complaint of discrimination write: DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2291 or call: (605) 773-3305. If you have a question regarding program services, please call (605) 773-4105 or 1-866-674-0543.

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South Dakota Sales Tax on Food Refund Program



stretching Your

dollars

Sales Tax on Food Refund Program

The South Dakota Sales Tax on Food Refund Program helps low-income families stretch their food dollars. The program provides refunds of sales tax payments on food to South Dakota residents who qualify for the program.

■ Am I Eligible?

You must meet basic eligibility criteria. The criteria is:

- Your household's gross monthly income must be at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. For example in July 2005, a family of four's monthly gross income must be less than \$2,419. (Amounts change each spring. For household size amounts, call our office or visit our Web site. Contact information is provided on the back.)
- You must live in South Dakota. Homeless individuals may also be eligible if they stay in South Dakota.
- You and your household members must be United States citizens or have legal status to reside in the U.S.
- Individuals who reside in a place where they receive at least 50 percent of meals are not eligible. The 50 percent or greater meal provision must be a part of normal services provided to the residents.

■ How Do I Apply?

- You can request an application by calling (605) 773-4105 or toll-free at 1-866-674-0543. Applications are available online at www.state.sd.us/social/SalesTaxOnFoodRefund and at all local Social Services offices. Applications may also be available at local community agencies in your area.

- The application form is easy to complete. The only information we ask is what is needed to find out if you are eligible. If you need assistance completing your application, call our office at the above listed phone numbers.
- Mail your completed application to: Department of Social Services, Sales Tax on Food Refund Program, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2291. Or you can fax your completed application to (605) 773-7183.

■ How Much Will I Receive?

A national food plan is used to determine the monthly cost of food a family needs to purchase for a healthy, nutritious diet. Amounts vary based on household size. Benefits are paid quarterly, which means you will receive three months of benefits in one payment.

The sales tax amount on any food stamp benefit you have received in the three months prior to the application month is deducted from the monthly amount before the sales tax refund payment is calculated.

■ How Will I Receive my Refund?

You will receive your sales tax on food refund benefits in an electronic account. After your benefits have been approved, a plastic debit card, called the Dakota EBT card, will be sent to you along with instructions on using it. The card may be used in most grocery stores anywhere in South Dakota and in most other states.

■ How Can I Use my Benefits?

You can use your benefits to buy almost any food item. You **cannot** buy hot foods such as deli items or food that will be eaten in the store, alcohol which includes beer or wine, pet food, soap, paper products, household supplies, vitamins or drugs. (The food purchases allowed are the same as in the Food Stamp Program.)

If you are buying a combination of items such as food and paper goods, only the eligible food items will be paid from your Dakota EBT card. You will need to pay cash for all other items.